A
LETTER
TO THE
LITTLE CHILDREN:
ESPECIALLY
TO THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GO TO HEAVEN.

By JOHN CENNICK.

Jeſus ſaith, Suffer little Children to come to me, and forbid them not, for of ſuch is the Kingdom of God. LUKE xviii. 16.

Thoſe that ſeek me early ſhall find me. PROV. viii. 17.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON;

Printed and Sold by H. TRAPP, No. 1. Paternoſter-Row.

Price One Penny.

[1803?]

BRITISH MUSEUM

A LETTER TO THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

Dear little CHILDREN,

BECAUSE our Saviour loves you, and becauſe I love you, I write you a letter, to tell you how you ſhould be ſaved. Some of you think it is time enough for you to begin to ſeek to go to heaven when you are older, and when you grow up to be men and women, then you ſhall underſtand the matter of religion better; and that Jeſus Chriſt don't make himſelf known to ſuch little children as you: That is the devil makes you think ſo; and it is becauſe you don't love our Saviour, you give way to ſuch thoughts. For if you loved Jeſus Chriſt, you would be glad to know him now, and would not want to ſtay longer, before you ſought after him. The devil tells people it is time enough to be good hereafter, when they can read better, and when they are old, or when they are ſick and going to die; and when people believe him, they will not hear of Chriſt, but take his name in vain, ſing ſongs, and ſwear and ſteal, and tell lyes, and live without our Saviour in their hearts, till they are old or ſick; and then the devil perſuades them it is too late now, and ſo they go into deſpair, and, may be, go to hell at laſt, and wiſh they had remembered their Creator in the days of their youth: and ſome, when they come to die, are frightened, and ſeek to repent, and they can't, becauſe their heart is hardened, and the day of ſalvation is over. Becauſe it

may

may not be ſo with you, I will let you know ſomewhat about the ſtate of your ſouls, and what our dear Saviour has done for you, and then I will invite you to come to him and be ſaved.

When God Almighty made Adam, he made his ſoul in the image of God, and Adam lived by the Spirit of God, and he knew the Lord, and the Lord walked with him in paradiſe, a great garden full of all fruit trees, and every good thing, and all the birds and beaſts were round about among the trees of the garden. Then there was no harm in lions and tygers, nor any poiſon in any green herbs, nor any ſting in adders, dragons, or ſerpents, but all was well and pleaſant, and Adam was righteous, and pleaſed God, and our Saviour loved him, and he loved our Saviour, and there was no ſuch thing as evil or ſin in the world. Now God bid Adam not eat of one tree in the middle of the garden, but ſaid, if he did, he ſhould ſurely die; that is, he ſhould loſe his divine life, which he had in his ſoul, and become a poor mortal. But tho' God ſo charged Adam, his wife and he did eat; for the devil that tempts people to be wicked, tempted them to go and eat, and perſuaded them that they ſhould not ſurely die, and ſo they were deceived. And ſo ſoon as they had ſinned, God would not let them ſtay in paradiſe with him any longer, but baniſhed them into this world where we live, and curſed Adam and his wife and all their children, and was very angry, and he would have ſent them and us, and every body elſe to hell-fire, but our Saviour then, becauſe he loved us, though we had done ſo bad, went and deſired his Father not to deſtroy us, but ſpare us, and ſo he came down from heaven, and was born of the Virgin Mary in our fleſh, like other little children; and when he came into this wicked world, people turned him and

his

his mother into a ſtable, and there ſhe laid our Saviour in the manger, and as he grew up he was hated, and made game of, and nobody hardly loved him, and ſo they uſed him very ill, and the devil tempted him, and made wicked people kill him; ſo when he was dying on the croſs, he bore all our ſins, and all our bad works, and every thing that made God angry, and ſo he by dying and bleeding for us, made God and us friends again, and all his anger was turned away; and when our Saviour roſe from the dead he went to heaven, and all the angels worſhipped him, and he went and ſat down at the right hand of God, and there is to ſtay and pray for us till the day of judgment. Ever ſince he has been dead, his Spirit, which is the Holy Ghoſt, moves miniſters to go and tell the people what he hath done to redeem them, and how he died for them, and how he loves little children ſhould come to him, and for this reaſon, that little children might believe he loves them as well as old people (while he was alive in the world) he took up the children into his arms. and bleſſed them, and when his diſciples forbid thoſe who brought the children, and wanted them not to bring their little ones to Chriſt, he was not pleaſed, but ſaid, "Forbid them not, for of ſuch (little children) is the kingdom of God." And at another time, when he was riding into Jeruſalem upon an aſs, he gave his Holy Spirit to the little children, and they ran before him, and praiſed Jeſus, and cried in the temple, Hoſanna to him, and when they wanted him to ſtop them, he would not, but let them ſing to him, for he loves to hear little children pray to him, and ſing to him, very much. So, becauſe I am ſure, that now, as well as formerly, our Saviour will make himſelf known to little children, and ſhew them his love, I will tell you how to come to Chriſt. All

the

the good things that you can do, will not make him think you good, but you muſt believe in him: you muſt believe he died for you, and waſhed away your ſins in his own blood, when he ſweat a bloody ſweat, and died upon the croſs. If you don't know Jeſus Chriſt is in your heart, then you have no faith. And if you have not got the Spirit of Chriſt in your ſoul, you are one of the world, and you don't love Jeſus, for if you loved him and believed in him, you would find his Spirit in you, and you would know that our Saviour had forgiven you all your ſins. And now you may aſk me, What is faith? My dear little children, it is ſomewhat given of God, whereby we know Chriſt, and if you pray to our Saviour to give you faith, he will ſurely give it to you, and you will be juſtified by that faith; I mean, your ſins will be forgiven, and our Saviour will give you his righteouſneſs to cover your ſoul, and he will love and ſave you, and he will incline you and make you willing to do all good works, ſuch as going to hear ſermons, tell the truth, love your very enemies, and do every thing that is right in his ſight! you will then love to pray, whenever you can get by yourſelf, and you will know you ſhall go to heaven when you die. Some people tell their children, if they do good and go to church, and don't tell lyes, but pray, they will be ſaved; but that is not enough, they muſt have faith in Chriſt's blood, they muſt believe Chriſt died for their ſins, and they muſt have the Spirit of Jeſus Chriſt in them, or elſe they will never be ſaved. Take your teſtament, and look into Romans, chap. viii. ver. 11. and there you will read how, "If any man hath not the Spirit of Chriſt," (he don't belong to our Saviour, for "he is none of his." Go then, my dear little children; and get by yourſelves and pray, and beg our Saviour to give you his Spirit, and

this precious faith, and he will give it. You may read what he ſaith himſelf, in Matthew, chap. vii. ver. 11. "Your heavenly Father will give his Holy Spirit to them that aſk him." Don't reſt till you know our Saviour loves you, for if you ſhould die before you are born again of the Spirit, and before you have this faith, you won't go to heaven. Some little children of five, ſix, or ſeven years old, have been converted and believed in Jeſus Chriſt, and ſo they lived very happy in the world; and when other children were playing fooliſhly in the ſtreets, and telling lying ſtories, and were rude, they would be by themſelves talking to our Saviour in prayer, and reading the bible, and waiting upon God. So they continued till they came to die, and then they were not afraid of death. Little children that don't love Jeſus Chriſt, and who have not got faith, are afraid to die; but ſuch as theſe are glad to die, for then they go to live with our Saviour, and to kiſs him, and to put on long white robes and crowns of gold, and to ſit in the kingdom of God, and to be beloved by Jeſus, and to have all the holy angels wait on them for ever and ever. O my dear little lambs, be intreated to be wiſe, and to chuſe Jeſus Chriſt, and to believe in his blood, and in his name. Read about him always, and when you cannot underſtand what you read, pray to our Saviour, and he will make you underſtand. He will reveal the meaning in your hearts by his Holy Spirit. Don't think, I will do good, I will go to hear ſermons, and pray, and obey my parents, and love my brothers and ſiſters, and not be angry and wicked, and then our Saviour will love me. But know that he don't love people for their works, but believe he will love them freely, and that he now loves you, and think that all that you can do will not merit his kingdom, but you will

have it for Chriſt's ſake; and when you do all the good you can, tell our Saviour, and ſay, Lord, I am an unprofitable ſervant, I can do nothing to pleaſe thee as I ought, but forgive me all my ſins for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, and give me thy Holy Spirit in my heart, and then I will ſerve thee better. Yea my dear children, pray that God would teach you how to pray right, for your beſt prayers are but bad in his ſight, and muſt be waſh'd in Jeſus Chriſt's blood, and then your prayers will be heard. And when it ſhall pleaſe our dear Saviour to give you his Spirit, and to ſhed abroad his love in your heart, then you will not be afraid of dying, nor of the day of judgment, but you will go to heaven die when you will. The devil then can't pluck you out of the hands of our Saviour, but you will be ſaved among the ſaints and angels for evermore! May be now if one was to aſk you, what would become of you, if you were to die as you are? You would not know what to anſwer, but be afraid, and cry at the thoughts of death; but then, when you know Chriſt, you will be very glad to go to him, and leave all your dear friends, and father and mother, and every body, to go to heaven. Be ſure don't you think you are true chriſtians till you have Chriſt, and while you pray for yourſelves I will pray for you, and Chriſt will pray for you. Even ſo, Lord Jeſus. Amen and Amen.

6 JU 62

And now, Oh my dear Maſter Jeſus Chriſt, I take this letter, and beſeech thee to bleſs it, and bid it "Go and proſper." Sprinkle it with thy precious blood, and give this letter to all the little children as it ſhall pleaſe thee; and grant them underſtanding, that they may read and believe on thee and be ſaved, and thou ſhalt have all the praiſe from them and me. Even ſo, Amen.

FINIS.